The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news, accounts and editorial interpretation of matters affecting labor occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and contributes information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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You may glean knowledge by reading, but you must separate the chaff from the wheat by thinking.—Sparta.

WHOLE NO. 1339 WILLIAM GREEN, President WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1936 FRANK MORRISON, Secretary-Treasurer VOL. 26, NO. 50

Aluminum Workers' Unions Gain 40-Hour Week In New Agreement

Time and One-Half Paid for Overtime—Seniority Provided —Public Contracts Act Will Be Applied.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Pittsburgh, Pa. — Announcement was made here of the signing of a new agreement between the Aluminum Company of America and Aluminum Workers' Unions of the American Federation of Labor to replace the uni-lateral agreement in effect for the past two years between the company and this group of unions.

The aluminum workers' unions covered by the agreement are No. 19104, Alcoa, Tenn.; No. 19737, Badin, N. C., No. 18780, East St. Louis, Ill.; No. 19256, Massena, N. Y.; No. 18332, Logan's Ferry, Pa., and No. 18356, New Kensington, Pa. Local Lodge No. 541 of the International Association of Machinists of New Kensington, Pa., is also covered by the agreement.

The important provision of the new agreement lies in the fact that it is the first bi-lateral agreement secured with this company by the unions and that the agreement provided for the abolition of all former NRA code hours above eight hours per day and 40 hours per week without penalty to establish this working schedule within the plants of the company covered by the agreement.

In a few continuous operation departments exception to the straight 40 hours a week will be made in order to provide that where there is rotation of shifts no employee will have to work more than eight hours in any one 24 hours when he changes shifts.

Time and a half will be paid for all time worked beyond eight hours per day and 40 hours per week as well as for all work performed on Sundays and holidays, under the provisions of the new agreement. .

The agreement also provides a clarification of the seniority rights giving preference to the older employe at times of reduction of forces as well as giving preference where new jobs are created or vacancies occur in the preferred or higher rated positions.

Arrangements have also been made in the agreement for protection to the employes of all provisions under the Walsh-Healey Public Contracts Act, and also any other Federal or state law that may be created which will in any way affect the employes of the Aluminum Company of America.

The agreement is a great advance in collective bargaining over the former agreement which was in effect, as well as being the first agreement to be signed by both the representative of the company and representatives of the unions.

The agreement was signed for the Aluminum Company of America by Mr. I. W. Wilson, vice president in charge of operations. The committees representing the unions, everyone of whom also signed the agreement, were as follows: Fred A. Wetmore and Carl K. Greene, of Alcoa, Tenn.; O. B. Lackey, Badin, N. C.; Eddie R. Stahl and Arthur H. Curtis, East St. Louis, Ill.; Oliver Moyes, Logan's Ferry, Pa.; Frank R. Meyers, Massena, N. Y.; Paul Howlett, John Haser, W. B. Gravatt, William McCall, George C. Hobaugh, Adolph R. Freskren, Clyde T. Holmes and Charles Wyant, of New Kensington. These all represented unions of aluminum workers directly affiliated with the American Federation of Labor.

Local Lodge No. 541, International Association of Machinists of New Kensington, Pa., was represented by Thaddeus W. Buxton, who signed for that union. David Wilson, president of the National Council of Aluminum Workers, acted as chairman of the negotiating committee during the conferences with the company and signed the agreement for the council and the American Federation of Labor.

Pay Boost Won by Hamilton Operating Engineers, Oilers

Hamilton, Ont. (AFLNS).—Members of the International Union of Operating Engineers, also plant oilers and relief switchmen, have just won substantial wage increases in a unanimous decision of the Board of Conciliation that considered the dispute between these workers and the Hamilton By-Products Coke Ovens, Ltd.

The new agreement, announced by Minister of Labor Rogers, becomes effective until October 1, 1938, unless either side gives 30 days' notice of intention to reopen negotiations October 1 of next year. Operating engineers won 5 cents an hour increase, plant oilers 4 cents and relief switchmen 5 cents. The agreement also provides that neither party shall discriminate against the other and a grievance committee is to be established to adjust any misunderstanding that may arise.

Houston Furniture Workers Win 8-Hour Day Agreement

Houston, Texas. (AFLNS).—Furniture Workers' Union (Federal) No. 19766, chartered by the American Federation of Labor, has secured a closed shop agreement with the Texas Table Company, which is regarded as a distinct gain for the union.

Provisions of the contract include the eight-hour day, 45-hour week and wage adjustments, together with recognition of seniority rights and other advantages. The new agreement extends to July 1, 1937.

PORTLAND JUDGE UPHOLDS PICKETING AS LAWFUL ACT

Portland, Oreg. (AFLNS).—Another victory for peaceful picketing in labor disputes was won here when Judge Crawford, Circuit Court, decided the application for an injunction to prohibit picketing by culinary crafts, sought by the Portland Rose Restaurant, one of three places picketed by the Culinary Workers' Union.

Trouble had started September 11 when union help was let out with the simple explanation that they were "unsatisfactory," and non-union people employed to replace them. The management, in seeking the injunction, claimed they did not hire members of the union at the time and that there was therefore "no labor dispute." This dodge, used many times in different parts of the country, did not work, the court, in view of evidence submitted, holding that there was a labor dispute and that the picketing was entirely legal.

Peoria Union Subscribes In Body to Labor Gazette

Peoria, Ill. (AFLNS).—The local labor press, which fights the battles of every local union in their respective communities, while keeping about half a jump ahead of the sheriff, due to the thoughtlessness of too many unions in neglecting to render needed financial support, appears to be attaining a broader appreciation throughout the country, and Peoria labor is not the kind to sit back while others go forward.

The result is that "The Peoria Labor Gazette," the official labor paper here, is perking up. Unions are subscribing for the paper "in a body," as many contend all local unions in every community having a labor paper should do. Among the latest local unions to act was the Bartenders' Union, which voted to subscribe for its entire 350 members.

Chicago Injunction Judge Decrees Ban on Picketing

Chicago, Ill. (AFLNS).—Officers of Sign and Pictorial Painters' Local Union No. 830 have become victims of a labor injunction issued by "a new labor injunction judge," Judge Stanley Fulton, who signed a decree sought to be thrown out, through a court fight by the union, its drastic provisions and the claim that it was issued without notice and that unions are having the effect of drawing wide condemnation.

The Hub and Oakley moving picture theatres, employing non-union decorators, secured the temporary injunction in an attempt to stop picketing of these theatres by Local Union No. 830. The union, however, is determined to push forward to victory, feeling that the cause of right and justice is theirs.

Alaska Cannery Workers Free Themselves From Contractors

San Francisco, Calif. (AFLNS).—A recent report to the San Francisco bureau of Commerce from the Alaska Cannery Workers' Union, Federal Local No. 20196, affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, has reached the substantial membership of 1,687.

It was also brought out that, for the first time in the history of the salmon industry in Alaska, the workers left for Alaska this year under union conditions, free from the exploitation of contractors, resulting in the membership of the union earning nearly $200,000 more than formerly. The union has displayed a co-operative attitude with other unions and in turn enjoys the cordial support of Pacific Coast labor in general.

Seattle Clerks Strike; Firm Signs Union Shop Agreement

Seattle, Wash. (AFLNS). — Although not then members of a union, employes of a big shoe store on Pike street here, through a mutual understanding decided to come out on strike. They promptly contacted the union and affiliated.

The union thereupon took the situation in hand on behalf of the men. After being out on strike about a month the Retail Clerks' Union succeeded in signing the store on a 100 per cent union basis, with hours, wages and working conditions all substantially improved. Among other things, the clerks gained the eight-hour work day, with all overtime eliminated.

Long Beach Auto Mechanics Organize; 5 Shops Sign Up

Long Beach, Calif. (AFLNS).—Automotive Maintenance Lodge No. 1126, International Association of Machinists, recently chartered with 90 charter members, although 110 applications had been received by the time the charter arrived, will maintain membership rates for new members until January 1.

Following the lead of San Pedro and Wilmington, nearby, where complete organization of automobile mechanics was effected sometime ago, Long Beach auto mechanics have set their goal for this city at 100 per cent organization. Five shops are already reported as fully organized, with others coming into the fold gradually.

D. C. BOOKBINDERS WIN ARBITRATION AWARD

Five-Day, Forty-Hour Week Effective In Commercial Shops, With Increased Rates for Night Work and Apprentices.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington, D. C. — Following nearly a year of negotiations and arbitration proceedings requiring about one month, Bookbinders' Local Union No. 4 has won an outstanding victory for all members and apprentices employed in commercial shops in the District of Columbia.

The award grants bookbinders the five-day, 40-hour work week at the same rate formerly paid for 44 hours, making the union hourly rate now $1. The night rate was increased to $2.25 per week over the day scale, a gain of 25 cents. A particularly notable feature of the award is increases in the wages of apprentices totaling about 10 per cent, in addition to the periodical 10 per cent advance with added experience as heretofore provided by contract.

Other graphic arts crafts here, in commercial shops, gained the 40-hour week sometime ago, but with the six-day or rotating day scale, whereas the bookbinders have gained the five-day, 40-hour week, to be worked from Monday to Friday, inclusive, with time and a quarter for Saturday mornings, time and a half for other overtime periods and double time for Sundays and holidays.

The new agreement, which became effective December 7, benefits over 100 members of Local No. 4 employed in commercial shops. Over 400 additional members, employed in the Government Printing Office and other divisions of the government, have the 40-hour work week, with the six-day or rotating provision, by act of Congress.

16 St. Paul Firms Sign Union Pacts with Meat Cutters and Painters

St. Paul, Minn. (AFLNS).—Organized labor in St. Paul, ever alert and growing stronger, is constantly noting substantial gains.

Among recent victories for workers organized under the banner of the American Federation of Labor may be noted a new agreement with the 11 stores of the National Tea Company, signed by Local Union No. 114, Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen. The union not only secured recognition, but a guarantee of substantial wage gaining, union conditions and substantial wage increases.

The Hardwood Finishers' Branch of Painters' Local No. 61 is now 100 per cent organized in three large department stores and two furniture stores. The organization of these craftsmen is still going forward, in line with similar drives for expansion being conducted by several local unions.

Fort Worth Printers Initiate Vote on C. I. O. Affiliation

Fort Worth, Texas (AFLNS).—The Fort Worth Typographical Union adopted a motion to initiate a petition calling upon the executive council of the International Typographical Union to submit to a general referendum the question: Shall the International Typographical Union withdraw from the American Federation of Labor and affiliate with the organization known as the Committee for Industrial Organization? The laws of the I. T. U. require that in order for a local union to submit a proposition to a general referendum it must obtain the endorsement of 149 additional subordinate unions.

Philadelphia Inquirer Signs Pact With Printing Trades

Philadelphia, Pa. (AFLNS).—Five unions of the Allied Printing Trades Council have won a "closed shop" agreement with the Philadelphia Inquirer, daily newspaper, which also grants a five per cent increase in wages over the amounts formerly paid and the standard union scale, with other conditions and union regulations to be worked out in conferences between union representatives and the management. All help required in the lines covered is now being furnished by the unions.

Participating in the settlement, following a series of conferences with the management, are Philadelphia Newspaper Pressmen No. 16, Stereotypers No. 7, Photo-Engravers No. 7, Mailers No. 14 and the International Typographical Union.

It is reported that efforts are now under way to unionize the "Evening Bulletin," which has become Philadelphia's only non-union newspaper.

1,500 Silk Throwers Strike Against Increased Work Load

Buffalo, N. Y. (AFLNS).—Alleged sweatshop conditions and speed-up practices at Avondale throwing mills operated here by the Duffy interests resulted in the walkout of 1,500 workers, with the effective closing of the plants, pending settlement with the Buffalo local of the American Federation of Hosiery Workers.

Union officials say they have reason to believe also there is some connection between the Duffy throwing and hosiery mills here and the Berkshire Knitting Mills at Reading, Pa., world's largest full-fashioned hosiery plant.

The strikers, who contend that the average work load of operatives has been virtually doubled in recent months at the Duffy plants, with only slight pay increases are "in fighting trim" and determined to eliminate the alleged substandard conditions and to secure recognition of their union.

EDITORIALS

ANOTHER COMPANY UNION EXPOSED

The National Labor Relations Board has performed a distinct public service in exposing the real character of the Plan of Employe Representation which the United States Steel Corporation imposes on its employes and the employes of its subsidiaries. The autocratic character of this company union was revealed by the Board in a complaint charging the Steel Corporation and its wholly-owned subsidiary, the Carnegie-Illinois Steel Corporation, with having interfered with the self-organization of their employes in the latter's 21 plants.

The Board specifically charges that the U. S. Steel Corporation and its subsidiaries dominate and financially support the Plan of Employe Representation.

The complaint asserts the Carnegie-Illinois Company insisted that representatives of the representation plan approve a wage contract prepared by the company without submission of its terms to the employes affected.

Early in November, the Board asserts, a Pittsburgh District Council was created, the delegates to it consisting of two employe representatives and two management representatives from each of the company's plants in the Pittsburgh District. The expenses of the Council's meetings were paid by the company. No provision was made for collective meetings of the various plants to instruct delegates.

The Board declares that during the establishment of the Plan of Employe Representation in 1933 the U. S. Steel Corporation dominated its employes and interfered with their rights to organize unhampered by management.

The Board's general indictment of the Representation Plan as an instrument to provide expression of employe opinion includes the following defects:

There is no provision for collective meetings and no opportunity for employes to cast votes on wage agreements or the submission of disputes to arbitration and similar problems.

The Steel Corporation bears all expenses of the plan.

Newly hired employes automatically become members of the plan.

Employe representative elections are held on company property.

Incumbent employe representatives are permitted to campaign for re-election during working hours and at company expense.

In elections employe representatives act as tellers and compile the results with their wages paid during such periods.

Foremen and superintendents, having power to hire and fire, openly ascertain the names of employes who have failed to vote in elections under the plan.

Bulletin boards are used to influence employes regarding wage proposals.

The minutes of employe representation meetings are edited so that the full proceedings are not known to the general run of employes.

The National Labor Relations Act outlaws as an "unfair labor practice" this anti-social monstrosity which the United States Steel Corporation and its subsidiaries call the Plan of Employe Representation. The constitutionality of the Act is being challenged before the United States Supreme Court by the Associated Press and other corporations.

Undoubtedly the inquiry regarding the plan undertaken by the National Labor Relations Board will throw more illumination on the subtle attempt of the Steel Corporation to secure the fide labor organizations with the notorious company union dominated by the corporation.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE TAX UPHELD

The decision of Federal Judge George C. Sweeney, in Boston, upholding as constitutional the right of Congress to levy a payroll tax on employers for the unemployment compensation system set up under the Federal Social Security Act is a definite victory for the authority of the United States Government to function in this essentially national sphere.

The decision was rendered on the application of a stockholder of the Boston & Maine Railroad for an injunction to prevent the railroad officials from paying the tax.

The stockholder alleged that the tax was "capricious confiscation," that it is not uniform throughout the United States, and that the proceeds of the tax were not intended to meet the needs of the common defense or general welfare of the United States.

In sweeping aside all these allegations as having no valid foundation, Judge Sweeney said:

"I rule that the tax imposed under Title 9 of the Social Security Act is a valid exercise under the taxing power of Congress, that it does not exceed the limitation of uniformity, that it is to provide for the general welfare of the United States, and it is therefore constitutional."

Observers believe that Judge Sweeney's decision will be affirmed by the United States Circuit Court of Appeals for the First Judicial Circuit and by the United States Supreme Court, which has already held constitutional the tax levied on employers by the New York State Unemployment Insurance Law.

The big affair, entirely successful and entirely a "union party," helped swell the Policemen's Widows' and Orphans' Fund, which is mainly used to aid widows and orphans of deceased policemen, including those killed in line of duty.

BAD WORK CONDITIONS IN CHICAGO LAUNDRIES

Organizing Drive Reveals Wages of From $7 to $12 for 55 to 65-Hour Week.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

The deplorable conditions existing in unorganized laundries in Chicago are gradually becoming public knowledge through the campaign being conducted by International Laundry Workers' Local Union No. 46 to organize these underpaid and grossly mistreated workers.

Inspections of non-union laundries have revealed frightful sanitary conditions, said to endanger the health of employes and patrons alike. Workers are obliged to put in from 55 to 65 hours a week, for which they are paid perhaps $7 to $12.

With the thermometer registering up to 100 degrees inside plants, although it may be below the freezing point outside, workers are said to be victims of a vicious speed-up system, which involves also, it is stated, the lifting of bundles heavy enough to cause internal injuries.

Frank Morrison, secretary of the American Federation of Labor, recently asked Alexander L. Marks, A. F. of L. organizer in Chicago territory, to assist Laundry Workers' Local No. 46 as much as possible, while a number of prominent social service workers, in addition to the entire labor movement, have solidly behind the move to organize the laundry workers.

All agree that organization will afford the laundry employes a solution to their problems, including unfair wages, long hours and disagreeable working conditions.

TWO FRISCO PAPERS SIGN NEWSPAPER GUILD PACTS

Minimum Salaries of Editorial Employes Fixed, With 5-Hour, 5-Day Week and Paid Vacations.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

San Francisco, Calif.—The Northern California Newspaper Guild, local unit of the American Newspaper Guild, affiliated with the A. F. of L., has won an excellent agreement with "The Daily News" and has secured an agreement with "The Chronicle," famous Hearst daily, which, it is said to establish higher minimum rates of pay than enjoyed on any other paper in the West.

Those charged with reporting, writing and editing news, editorials and full-time feature writers, photographers, artists, cartoonists, recorders and lay-out men, with over five years' experience on "The Chronicle" get a minimum of $200 a month; over two years, $180; over one year, $130, and less than one year, $110. Editorial department copy boys and office boys, employed less than six months, $65; over six months, $75.

Severance pay is provided, one of the features usually fought for. Employes with the paper less than two years will get two weeks' salary, in addition to accrued pay and overtime, in case of discharge; if over two years, four weeks' salary, and if over five years, six weeks' salary. All editorial employes in the continuous service of the publishers for six months and less than one year will be given one week's vacation with full pay; for those whose service has been one year and less than five years, two weeks.

The minimum salaries became effective December 1 and the eight-hour day, five-day week was granted to take effect January 1. For any necessary overtime work equivalent time off will be allowed, and the management has agreed that there will be no discrimination because of union membership or union activity. The agreement covers a period of one year. "The Chronicle" management has been highly commended in labor circles as a result of their agreement with their newsroom employes.

San Jose Building Trades Pickets Land Union Pact

San Jose, Calif. (AFLNS).—The Building Trades Council of Santa Clara County, in their fight against construction jobs where non-union subcontractors operate, has resorted to picketing—and with telling effect.

After pickets were on one big job only four days, the general contractor signed an agreement making the job 100 per cent union. Houses being built by non-union people for so-called "real estate operators," who sell them for residences, is also being undertaken.

Many affiliated building crafts have already noted gains as a result of the militant stand taken by the Council, including bricklayers, plasterers, cement finishers, sheet metal workers, iron workers, painters, tile setters, hod carriers and building laborers.

Hutton's Union Band Plays For Iowa Policemen's Ball

Cedar Rapids, Iowa (AFLNS).—They say that many a "flat foot" got hot here recently when Ina Ray Hutton's nationally famous union band supplied music, while a union radio technician and a union stagehand had charge of sound effects, at the annual policemen's ball in the Coliseum here.

Drive For Ratification of Child Labor Ban Opened By A. F. of L.

Green Urges All Union Officials and Members in Twenty-four States Which Have Not Yet Voted Favorably on Federal Amendment to Impress State Legislators With the Importance of Prompt Action to End Exploitation of Children in Industry.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington, D. C.—Immediate and persistent effort by the entire organized labor movement to secure ratification of the Child Labor Amendment by the legislatures of 24 states which up to the present have not favored conferring upon Congress the power to end the exploitation of children in American industry was recommended by William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, in a letter sent to all state federations of labor, city central bodies and local unions in those states.

The amendment has already been ratified by the legislatures of 24 states, but favorable action by 12 more states is required to make the amendment a part of our fundamental law.

"As an employment argument in favor of prompt ratification Mr. Green pointed out that under the present state laws owners of factories in nine states are permitted to employ children 14 years of age and younger, while in eight states children between 14 and 16 years of age may be employed from nine to 11 hours a day. In addition, 34 states have practically no regulations covering the employment of children 16 and 17 years of age in hazardous occupations.

Following is the text of Mr. Green's letter:

Twenty-four Delinquent States

Twenty-four state legislatures have ratified the Child Labor Amendment to the Constitution of the United States. Ratification by 12 more states is required in order to make that amendment a part of the Constitution.

The following state legislatures that have not ratified the amendment will meet in January:

Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Kansas, Maryland, Massachusetts, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia.

Other states that have not ratified but may hold special sessions in 1937 are:

Alabama, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Virginia.

Candidates Were Questioned

As your state legislature will meet in 1937, I believe that with the necessary agitation the members will vote to ratify. After the primaries were held in the various states that had not ratified the amendment I requested that the candidates for nomination as to whether they would vote for or against the amendment. Because of that fact the members of your state should be well aware of the desire of labor to have the amendment ratified.

If every labor official and member of a trade union who is acquainted with a member of your legislature takes him personally and urges his support of the amendment that is no doubt that your state will be added to those who oppose the exploitation of children in industry.

I am, therefore, appealing to you and to your officers and members to work more persistently than ever before in bring about the ratification of the amendment.

Does Not Interfere with Family Control

The forty-ninth annual convention of the American Federation of Labor declared:

"When the Child Labor Amendment is ratified Congress shall determine the age at which children may be employed and shall prohibit gainful employment to all under that age.

"This does not mean that the law will invade the home either in the city or on the farm and prohibit children from taking a reasonable part in home duties. It only seeks to conserve the formative period of childhood life to educational development. The amendment will in no way change family control and authority.

"It simply grants to Congress power which the states now have and exercise. It will not interfere with states' right to enact child labor legislation raising standards or to disagree and to cooperate with Federal authorities.

"The appropriation for dependent children provided in the new federal Security Act will facilitate the establishment of higher age limits for gainful employment for children."

Backward State Laws

The laws in each state stipulate the age limits of children who may be employed at gainful occupations. Under the law in nine states children 14 years of age and younger may be employed in factories. In eight states children between 14 and 16 years of age are permitted to work from nine to eleven hours a day. In 11 states children may be employed until 8 P. M. or later. In 34 states there are practically no regulations of employment in hazardous occupations of children 16 and 17 years of age.

This inequality in the laws of various states proves detrimental to the states that have enacted adequate child labor regulations.

Ban on Child Labor Competition

Because a state has voted against ratification of the amendment does not mean that it cannot change its position and vote favorably. The sentiment against child labor is most intense.

Under the National Recovery Act no children under 16 years of age would work in gainful employment and under 18 in hazardous employment. Those provisions were accepted by the employers as they eliminated unfair competition.

The Federal Trade Commission has been appealed to by certain industries to designate child labor standards which contain provisions similar to those in the codes under the National Recovery Act.

This is evidence that employers generally desire the elimination of child labor competition.

Supported by Farm Bureau

The American Farm Bureau Federation, a most important organization of farmers, has declared in favor of the amendment. At its last convention held in Chicago it adopted the following resolution:

"We approve the pending Child Labor Amendment to the Constitution and request state farm bureau federations to give it serious and sympathetic consideration."

No doubt these pronounced sentiments will commend themselves to the members of your legislature and if labor asserts itself in no uncertain terms they will vote to make the Child Labor Amendment a part of the Constitution of the United States.

Boston Labor Paper Will Publish First Anniversary Edition

Boston, Mass. (AFLNS).—With the forthcoming February edition, The Union Labor News of Boston will publish its first anniversary number, Andrew S. Student, publisher, was for many years identified with Hearst newspapers and after founding the Maine and Rhode Island labor papers, and prints the Boston group.

Mr. Saltus has now fulfilled a life's ambition by covering all New England from his headquarters, and is preparing a full two-page spread designed for national advertisers.

Department Store Employes Unit Formed in Philadelphia

Philadelphia, Pa. (AFLNS).—A new Department Store Employes' Council has been formed here, under the direction of Lewis G. Hines, A. F. of L. representative, which is expected to materially aid the further organization of all workers employed by department stores in Philadelphia.

This move followed closely upon a partial victory gained by several of these workers who were recently on strike and is designed to bring together in one representative body all of the unions that have jurisdiction over various employes of department stores. Headquarters have already been established at 50 North Eighth Street.

Unions which have pledged moral and financial support to the organization drive include the Building Trades Council, Brotherhood of Transportation Workers, Fur Workers, Storage Warehouse Workers, Waiters and Waitresses, and Bookkeepers.

Two Union Men Serve on Ohio Apprentice Training Group

Columbus, Ohio (AFLNS).—The formation of the Ohio State Committee on Apprentice Training, similar to those being formed in all states by the U. S. Department of Labor, under an executive order, has been completed with the naming of two prominent trade unionists as labor members. They are M. J. Jockel, of the Ohio Federation of Labor, and Walter A. Grannen, president of Typographical Union No. 3, Cincinnati.

The committee hopes to revitalize interest in apprentice training, to the end that the youth of the state and nation, entering any of the skilled trades, may enjoy the advantages of practical training for the job.

Chicago Coopers Gain High Wage Rate in Union Agreement

Chicago, Ill. (AFLNS).—What is said to be the highest rate of wages received by coopers anywhere in the United States has been gained as part of a new agreement reached with the Illinois Association of Breweries.

The agreement, won after extensive negotiations by Coopers' Union No. 64, calls for a wage rate of $1.07½ per hour, the 40-hour week and a union shop, the contractual period extending to April 30, 1938.